

Message Text

SECRET

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DRAFTED BY EB/ITP:MWGLITMAN:JVM

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S/S: FORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 296841 TOSEC 240296

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, UK

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: UK IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

TO THE SECRETARY FROM ENDERS

1. UK EMBASSY GAVE FRED DENT AND ME PREVIEW OF IMPORT RESTRICTIVE MEASURES HEALEY WILL ANNOUNCE TO PARLIAMENT AFTERNOON OF WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17. MEASURES WILL BE LIMITED IN NATURE.

2. IMPORTS OF SPUN YARNS FROM SPAIN AND MAN-MADE FABRICS FROM PORTUGAL WILL BE PLACED UNDER QUOTA EFFECTIVE MIDNIGHT DECEMBER 17. VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS WILL BE SOUGHT WITH ROMANIA, HUNGARY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, POLAND AND THE GDR ON SUITS AND FROM POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND ROMANIA ON FOOTWEAR. A SURVEILLANCE LICENSING SYSTEM WILL BE ESTABLISHED ON COLOR TV TUBES AND SETS AND PORTABLE BLACK AND WHITE TV SETS. ONLY THE TV ITEM INVOLVES U.S. EXPORTS.

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3. UK EMBASSY HERE WAS UNABLE SAY HOW LONG MEASURES

WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT. THEY CONFIRMED NO FURTHER IMPORT MEASURES ARE IN VIEW BUT WERE UNABLE TO TELL US WHETHER EXPORT PROMOTION SCHEMES WOULD BE IN PACKAGE. WE HAVE ASKED EMBASSY LONDON TO OBTAIN ANSWERS TO THESE AND OTHER TECHNICAL QUESTIONS BY OPENING OF BUSINESS WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 17.

4. UK MEASURES, ASSUMING WE HAVE FULL STORY, ARE UNLIKELY HAVE SIGNIFICANT TRADE EFFECT AND CLEARLY DESIGNED FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL PURPOSES.

5. WE ARE DEVELOPING PRESS GUIDANCE WITH STR. WE WILL AIM TO EXPRESS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH UK ACTION, CONTINUED ATTACHMENT TO OECD TRADE PLEDGE, AND BELIEF UK ACTION PROVIDES NEITHER REASON FOR CHAIN REACTIONS, NOR FOR SIMILAR MOVES BY OTHER COUNTRIES. INGERSOLL

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